

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
March 20, 2021

The Special Town Meeting of the Town was held at the Voluntown Elementary School 195 Main St., Voluntown, Connecticut on Saturday March 20, 2021 at 10:23 AM immediately following the Public Hearing scheduled for 10:00 AM. This meeting was a hybrid meeting and could also be participated in via zoom. Electors and all others eligible to vote in town meetings in the Town of Voluntown registered with their legal name as it appears on the Tax list or their voter registration card. All users were approved before being allowed into the meeting. Participants on zoom voted via poll.

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Hanson, First Selectman with the reading of the Notice of Special Town Meeting.

Beth Taylor, Assistant Town Clerk served as clerk for the meeting.

Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Jack Wesa made a motion to nominate Tracey Hanson as moderator, which was seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. There were no other nominations. Call for the vote. All were in favor of Tracey Hanson serving as moderator. So carried. Tracy Hanson will serve as moderator.

Item 1. To consider and act on adoption of the following proposed Ordinance:

(a) **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

The Moderator called for the approval of item 1. Judith Allick moved item #1 for approval, the motion was seconded by Catherine Grant. All were in favor.

Item 1 was opened for discussion. First Selectman Tracey Hanson explained the reasons the Selectman are supporting this ordinance, and Mark (Skip) Oulton also explained the current trend regarding appointment of the Town Clerk versus election. Concerns were voiced regarding citizens losing their right to vote. A question was also raised regarding the public notice of the vote with was addressed. Other questions regarding labor laws and unions were also addressed. Others spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Jack Wesa made a motion to close discussion. The motion was seconded by Ronald Millovitsch. All were in favor discussion was closed.

Debra Maynard made a motion to vote by paper ballot and it was seconded by David Nieminen.

The meeting room votes were counted by Rachel Ricard and Wendy Vachon

24 in favor 14 opposed. The ZOOM poll was recorded by Julie Zelinsky with 16 in favor 0 opposed. The totals were 40 in favor and 14 opposed.

Item # 1 Passed.

Item 2. To consider and act on repealing the following Ordinance:

- (a) **THE PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEER REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE**
- (b) **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION V OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEER REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE**

Jack Wesa made a motion to approve item 2, the motion was seconded by Catherine Grant. All were in favor.

Item 2 was opened for discussion. Tim Adams explained the reasons behind repealing the ordinance. There was a question regarding what this would do to the mill rate and it was explained that any mil rate changes would have to go through the budget process as usual.

Jack Wesa made a motion to close discussion. The motion was seconded by Catherine Grant. All were in favor discussion was closed.

Jack Wesa made a motion to vote by paper ballot and it was seconded by Cathy Grant.

33 in favor 1 opposed. The ZOOM poll was recorded by Julie Zelinsky with 9 in favor 1 opposed. The totals were 42 in favor and 2 opposed.

Item # 2 passed.

Jack Wesa made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Catherine Grant. The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

Pamela E. Theroux
Voluntown Town Clerk